of our position. The Government of Sri Lanka have informed us that the request is receiving their due consideration and that the extradition, if agreed to, would have to await completion of trial and legal processes in Sri Lanka.

India's Intervention in Diffusing West Asia Crisis

3889. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat has sought India's intervention in diffusing the on-going West Asia crisis; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) ~~and (b)~~ Yes, Sir. Mr. Hani Hasan, Special Envoy of President Yasir Arafat, visited New Delhi from 1-3 April, 2002 and delivered a letter from President Arafat to the Prime Minister. In his letter President Arafat conveyed his sincere gratitude for India's assistance and support to the Palestinian people. Mr. Hani Hasan requested that India should use its good offices to help restore normalcy in the region.

Government have expressed their deep concern at the recent incidents of violence in West Bank, Gaza and other parts of Palestinian Authority, Israel and Jerusalem. Government of India have been in touch with countries in the region on these development.

Optimisation of Expenses Incurred by Indian Missions

3890. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made recently to optimise expenses being incurred by the missions abroad in the interest of fiscal discipline;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider doing so and by when?